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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
PACBYTE SOFTWARE PTY LIMITED [AU/AU]; 36A
Langston Place, Epping, New South Wales 2121 (AU).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **PARKER, Bruce**,
[AU/AU]; 23 Beryl Avenue, Mt Colah, New South Wales
2079 (AU).

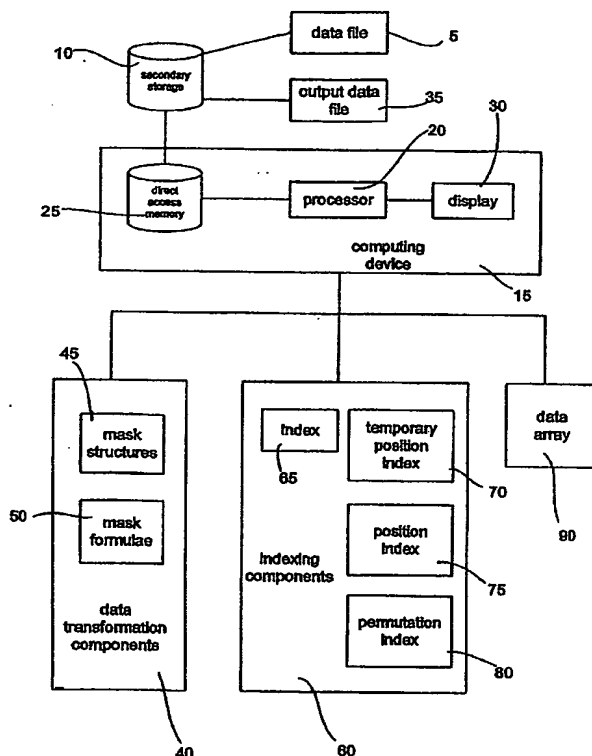
(74) Agents: **WEST-WALKER, Gregory, J et al.**; A J Park,
Level 11, 60 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra, Australian
Capital Territory 2601 (AU).

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(54) Title: DATA COMPRESSION SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method of compressing a data file comprising a sequence of bytes of a length greater than or equal to a predefined length, the method including the steps of: retrieving the data file from a secondary storage device; storing the data file in direct access memory; calculating the frequency of unique byte values within a sub-sequence of the data file, the sub-sequence having a length not exceeding the predefined length; creating an index for the sub-sequence, the index including a data value representing the calculated frequency of unique byte values within the sub-sequence; and on the sub-sequence having a frequency of unique byte values below a predetermined threshold, applying a data transformation to the sub-sequence to increase the frequency of unique byte values in the sub-sequence and adding to the index a data value representing the data transformation; on the sub-sequence having a frequency of unique byte values above a predefined threshold, adding to the index a data value representing the position of one or more unique values within the sub-sequence; creating an output data file, the data file having a file type identifier; and adding the index to the output data file.

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